

EGFR MUTATIONS IN NON SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER PATIENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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DECLARATION

I, Sze Wai Chan declare that this research report is my own work. It is being submitted for the degree of Master of Medicine in Internal Medicine / Medical Oncology in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at this or any other University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sze Wai Chan', is written over a horizontal line.

SZE WAI CHAN

A handwritten date '1st Sept. 2014' is written in black ink over a horizontal line.

DATE

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my loving parents

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Tyrosine kinase inhibitors and EGFR mutations has changed the treatment approach to lung cancer globally. This retrospective study will look at factors associated with EGFR mutations and define the EGFR mutation rate in South Africa.

Methods: Retrospective record review from NSCLC patients in South Africa who were tested for EGFR mutations at Lancet Laboratories during 1st September 2009 to 30th June 2012. Chi-squared test was used to determine association with categorical variables. Kaplan- Meier survival analysis was done for OS and PFS between EGFR mutation positive and negative patients. Cox proportional hazards were used for subgroup analysis. Treatment practices and response were described.

Results: 170 lung cancer samples were evaluable for EGFR mutation and 37 were EGFR mutation positive (21.8%). There were 22 (59.5%) exon 19 deletions, 11 (29.7%) L858R mutations, two G719X mutations, one S768I mutation and one exon 20 insertion. The median age was 63 (range 27-85). There were more females (55.6%) than males (44.4%) sent for mutation testing. Most patients were whites (71%), followed by blacks (18.3%), and other race (10.7%). 85% of all NSCLC samples tested were adenocarcinoma. None of the squamous cell carcinoma tested was positive for EGFR mutation. Smoking status was inversely proportional to EGFR mutation status ($p < 0.001$). Over 60% patients received chemotherapy first and second line and responses decreased with each line of chemotherapy. Median PFS and OS were not different between the EGFR mutation positive and negative groups (6.85 versus 6.8 months; HR 1.6; 95% CI 0.70-3.65; $p = 0.2543$ and 11.5 versus 12.9 months; HR 0.70;

95% CI 0.28-1.75; $p=0.44$, respectively). On multivariate analysis, only non-white race was associated with decrease in OS (HR 6.66; 95% CI 2.31-19.19; $p=0.0004$).

Conclusion: EGFR mutation rate in South African lung cancer patients was 21.8%. 89% of all EGFR mutations were either exon 19 deletions or L858R point mutations. Most EGFR mutations were associated with adenocarcinoma of the lung in non-smokers. These findings were consistent with current literature in western countries. Treatment practice remained chemotherapy based, with few patients receiving EGFR TKIs. Efforts should be made to prioritize targeted treatment approach in lung cancer in South Africa.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DECLARATION	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF TABLES	xi
DEFINITION OF TERMS	xii
ABBREVIATIONS	xiii
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Lung cancer – general overview	1
1.2 Lung cancer in never smokers – a new entity	2
1.3 Epidermal growth factor receptor and signaling pathways	4
1.4 EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors and EGFR activating mutations	5
1.5 Development of TKI and studies before 2004	6
1.6 Discovery of EGFR activating mutations and increase response to TKI	9
1.7 Second- / third-line TKI studies versus placebo	10
1.8 Second-line studies with TKI versus chemotherapy	13
1.9 First-line studies of TKI versus chemotherapy	17
1.10 Maintenance therapy	21
1.11 Side effects of TKIs	23
1.12 Acquired resistance from long term TKI therapy	23
1.13 Summary of gefitinib and erlotinib	24
1.14 Second generation tyrosine kinase inhibitors	25
1.15 EGFR overexpression	26
1.16 Other molecular developments in lung cancer	27
1.16.1 EML4-ALK translocation	27
1.16.2 ALK tyrosine kinase inhibitors	28
1.16.3 Molecular diagnosis of ALK rearrangement positive NSCLC	32
1.16.4 VEGF inhibition	33
1.16.5 cMet overexpression	34
1.16.6 Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium	35
1.17 Summary and situation in South Africa	37
2.0 PATIENTS AND METHODS	40
2.1 Methods of data collection and timeline	40
2.2 Descriptive review	41
2.3 Statistical analysis and objectives	42
2.4 Methods of detecting EGFR mutations	42
3.0 RESULTS	44
3.1 EGFR mutation rate	44

3.2 Specific EGFR mutations	44
3.3 Demographics and clinical characteristics	46
3.4 First-line treatments received in NSCLC	54
3.5 Response assessment post first-line systemic treatments	56
3.6 Second- and third-line treatments in NSCLC	58
3.7 Response assessment post second-line systemic treatments	58
3.8 Progression free survival	61
3.9 Overall Survival	64
4.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	69
4.1 Comparison to current literature	69
4.2 Challenges of lung cancer treatment in South Africa	70
4.3 Limitations of this study	72
4.4 Future direction	73
APPENDIX A DATA COLLECTION TABLE	74
APPENDIX B Permission from the Molecular Pathology Department of Lancet Laboratories, Johannesburg for the use of EGFR mutation results	76
APPENDIX C Permission from the Division of Medical Oncology, Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital for record review	77
APPENDIX D Permission from the CEO of Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital for record review	78
APPENDIX E Permission from Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre for patient's file review	79
APPENDIX F University of Witwatersrand Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) (Medical) Approval	80
APPENDIX G Presentations and abstract from 2011 SASCRO/SASMO Congress	81
APPENDIX H Letter from Sanofi	82
REFERENCES	83

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
3.1 Racial distribution of patients tested for EGFR mutations	49
3.2 NSCLC histology submitted for EGFR mutation testing	50
3.3 Smoking status and positive EGFR mutation status	52
3.4 Smoking status and negative EGFR mutation status	53
3.5 First-line treatments received in NSCLC	55
3.6 Second-line treatments received in NSCLC	59
3.7 Progression Free Survival in EGFR mutation positive and negative groups	62
3.8 Overall survival and EGFR mutation positive and negative groups in NSCLC	65
3.9 Overall Survival and Race in the EGFR mutation positive group	67
3.10 Overall Survival and Race in EGFR mutation negative group	68

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
3.1 Type of EGFR mutations	45
3.2 Clinical characteristics in EGFR mutation positive and negative patients	48
3.3 Smoking status of all patients who had EGFR mutation testing	51
3.4 RECIST 1.0 response assessment post first-line systemic therapy	57
3.5 Response assessment post second-line systemic treatments	60
3.6 Multivariate analysis of Progression Free Survival	63
3.7 Multivariate analysis of Overall Survival	66

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Smoking status was defined according to the IPASS and the Spanish screening study from Rosell et al (21, 23).

NEVER SMOKERS: < 100 lifetime cigarettes

FORMER SMOKERS: \geq 1 year since cessation

CURRENT SMOKERS: Still smoking, or < 1 year since cessation

FORMER LIGHT SMOKERS: stopped smoking at least 15 years previously and had a total of \leq 10 pack-years of smoking

RESPONSE RATE: Measured by Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumours (RECIST) 1.0 criteria (99)

PROGRESSION FREE SURVIVAL (PFS): From the date of first treatment to the earliest sign of disease progression, as determined by means of the RECIST 1.0

OVERALL SURVIVAL (OS): From the date of first treatment until death from any cause

LOST TO FOLLOW UP: Patient did not return for follow up visits AND unable to contact patient by telephonic means in 3 separate consecutive occasions

ABBREVIATIONS

ALK: Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase

ASR: Age Standardized incidence Rate (per 100,000 population)

DCR: Disease Control Rate

ECOG: Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group

EGFR: Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor

EMA: European Medicines Agency

ESMO: European Society for Medical Oncology

FACT-L: Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Lung (100)

FDA: Food and Drug Administration of USA

HR: Hazard Ratio

IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer

IHC: Immunohistochemistry

ITT: Intention To Treat

LCINS: Lung Cancer In Never Smokers

LR: Lifetime Risk of developing a cancer before the age of 74 years

NSCLC: Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

OR: Odds Ratio

OS: Overall Survival

PFS: Progression Free Survival

PM: Particulate Matter

RR / ORR: Response rate / Overall Response Rate

SASCRO: South African Society of Clinical and Radiation Oncology

SASMO: South African Society of Medical Oncology

SEER: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results

TKI: Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors

TTP: Time To Progression

WHO: World Health Organization